

# Regional Focus Groups

## Division of Licensed Resources

### Foster Care Issues

| Issues   | R E G I O N |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 1           | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <b>DLR ISSUES</b>  |             |   |   |   |   |   |
| Normalcy - reasonable rules  | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Background checks  |             | ● |   |   | ● | ● |
| Professionalize foster homes   | ●           |   | ● |   |   | ● |
| Training<br>More training & consistent across state  | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| More community awareness about foster care   | ●           |   | ● |   |   |   |
| Foster parents really part of team – valued as a professional  | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| CPS investigators follow protocols   | ●           |   |   | ● |   |   |
| Secure facilities when needed  |             |   |   | ● |   |   |
| Licensing takes too long   | ●           |   |   |   | ● |   |
| Higher quality of foster homes   | ●           | ● |   | ● | ● |   |
| More consistency in policy interpretation in licensing among regions                                     | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Consistency in waivers   | ●           |   |   |   |   | ● |
| <b>DCFS ISSUES</b>   |             |   |   |   |   |   |
| More social workers needed   | ●           |   |   | ● |   |   |
| More supports for the children   | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Foster parents paid more   | ●           |   | ● | ● |   |   |
| Listen to children   | ●           | ● |   |   | ● |   |
| Concerns about minority children   |             |   |   |   | ● |   |
| Not notified of court hearings   | ●           | ● |   |   |   | ● |
| More wrap around services  | ●           |   |   |   | ● |   |
| Therapy and/or DD services provided quickly  |             |   |   |   |   | ● |
| Better match of children and homes   | ●           | ● | ● |   |   |   |
| Better, accurate information about children when placed  | ●           | ● | ● |   | ● | ● |
| More medical information for child<br>Medical coupons arrive with child<br>Emergency care authorizations | ●           |   |   |   |   | ● |
| Fair distribution of children placed   |             |   | ● |   |   |   |
| Issues with AAGs - overworked  |             |   | ● |   |   |   |
| Return children home too quickly   |             |   | ● |   |   |   |
| Permanency plan timelines  | ●           |   | ● |   |   | ● |
| Clear Permanency for children  | ●           |   |   |   |   | ● |
| Court Ordered visits can be very harmful to the children   | ●           |   |   |   |   | ● |
| Rights of children a priority<br>Not preservation of family  | ●           |   |   |   |   | ● |

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### Foster Care Issues, cont'd

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| ISSUES FOR BOTH DLR & DCFS   |             |   |   |   |   |   |
| Grief support/meetings   | ●           | ● |   |   |   | ● |
| Foster Parent support  | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Accountability - clear expectations  | ●           | ● |   |   |   |   |
| More foster parents, including minority homes  |             | ● | ● | ● | ● |   |
| End intimidation/retaliation   | ●           | ● | ● |   |   | ● |
| Better respite   | ●           |   |   |   | ● |   |
| Payment issues regarding respite   | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Assist in day care arrangements  |             |   |   |   |   | ● |
| Payment problems   | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Rate restructure concerns  | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Communication<br>Consistency with regular visits &<br>Returning calls by social worker | ●           | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Communication between DLR & DCFS<br>to be improved (Agency disorganization)            | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Request a complaint process  | ●           | ● |   |   |   |   |
| Too many acronyms to understand  | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Assessment centers needed  |             |   | ● | ● |   | ● |
| Rural communities have specific<br>needs to be met                                     | ●           |   |   |   |   |   |